



GROUND COVER

NEWS AND SOLUTIONS FROM THE GROUND UP

APRIL 2016 VOLUME 7 ISSUE 4

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Innocent until Proven Poor – pay or stay sentencing



by Susan Beckett
Publisher

The symposium Innocent until Proven Poor, hosted by the Michigan Journal of Race and Law and University of Michigan (U-M) Law School in February 2016, explored abuses on a national level that have recently played out locally. Of particular concern to us are inadequate public defender programs, the criminalization of homelessness, and discrimination against the poor in the form of money bail and “pay or stay” sentencing.

Pay or stay sentencing refers to a judge’s ordering a defendant to pay fines and court costs or go to jail. For those un-

able to pay, the consequences have been catastrophic, including losing their jobs, homes, children and sometimes even their lives. The Department of Justice (DOJ) and the higher courts are condemning this practice as a violation of the Equal Protection Under the Law clause of the 14th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States. Case law has established that a debt must be capable of being paid; otherwise, it becomes a lifetime yoke of servitude.

Symposium speakers pointed to many localities, largely in the South, where pay and stay sentencing had become especially onerous due to municipalities’ practices of supplementing their budgets by routinely and frequently imposing large fines for small infractions. Worse, a disproportionate number of the fines were laid on the backs of the poor who are disproportionately people of color.

However, just last month, the Macomb County Circuit Court had to order District Court Judge Gerds from Eastpointe, a northern Detroit suburb, to halt his routine pay and stay sentencing practices. Gerds was sued in July 2015 by the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) on behalf of a single mother with two children who was fined \$455 for failing to license her dogs. Unable to squeeze the cash from the government assistance on which her family depended, she feared being jailed.

That fear was based on Gerds’ history, including a June, 2015 case in which a man who was unable to pay the \$334 fine for failing to use a crosswalk spent five days in jail before a higher court released him pending an appeal.

“We are relieved to know that defendants in Eastpointe no longer have to worry about landing in what amounts to illegal debtors’ prisons,” Michael J. Steinberg, the ACLU Michigan legal director, said in a statement. Steinberg also said the court order “upholds a basic principle of fairness in our nation – that nobody should be jailed just because he or she is too poor to pay fines, fees and costs.”

History has shown that rulings such as that in Macomb County do not lead to an immediate cessation of unconstitutional practices. Courts as profit-centers is the new norm. Cash-strapped municipalities across the nation have been funding their courts, police departments and local governments largely through the imposition of fines and fees. There are over 65,000 municipal and mayor’s courts in the United States,

many of which are run by people with no formal legal training.

For example, Adel Edwards was fined \$1,028 for burning leaves in his yard in Kelhum, Georgia. Destitute, he could not make the \$250 down payment, so he was handcuffed and hauled off to jail.

Ferguson, Missouri responded to a diminishing tax base by changing the focus of their police department from protection to income-generation. The fine for jaywalking was \$302. The municipal court was under the command of the police chief.

According to Jonathan Smith, a former DOJ attorney who worked on the Ferguson case, there were 53,000 traffic fines and 50,000 non-traffic fines issued in Ferguson in 2014, compared to 24,000 traffic fines and 20,000 non-traffic fines issued in 2009, in a town whose population was only 21,000. African Americans were four times more likely to be fined despite comprising just 67 percent of the population.

In 2004 Ferguson courts and police collected \$1.4 million in revenue, which increased to \$2.6 million in 2014 and was on pace to reach \$3.1 million in 2015 but was interrupted by scrutiny following the death of Michael Brown. In addition to imposing unreasonably high fines, impediments to paying those fines included the requirement to pay in person during limited and capricious business hours in conditions that included no appointments, no waiting rooms and no child care.

One Ferguson woman put an insufficient amount of change in her parking meter and was ticketed \$102. She was unable to pay the ticket so penalty fines were tacked on. She was eventually jailed for non-payment and lost her job, her home and her children.

Even Ferguson police officers voiced the opinion that residents’ limited resources would better serve public safety if they were spent on fixing their broken headlights instead of paying fines for having them.

The DOJ is in the midst of litigation with Ferguson over these practices. The DOJ position is that it is unconstitutional to deprive a

person of their liberty due to their inability to pay and that alternative forms of restitution must be available, such as community service.

Though Michigan has started turning around its practices of piling fines and penalties on the poor, there is a long way to go. Ordinary citizens can also help stamp out discriminatory sentencing practices by monitoring local courts. Court-watchers, citizens who observe court proceedings for a day, can help identify judges and municipalities where bias and unfair practices occur. Violations can be reported to Equal Justice Under Law, a non-profit that will attempt to redress the situation. An Innocent until Proven Poor symposium attendee who works for the DOJ prison system declared that he will sit in District Court and listen for abuses. Further, he planned to find out how many of those at Jackson Federal Prison are there because of an inability to pay fines.

There are also many people, some Groundcover vendors included, whose ability to move forward in their lives is bound by the fines and arrest warrants ensuing from past onerous sentences. Not only are they unable to pass background checks for traditional employment, their fear of being discovered and consequently incarcerated keeps them from using banks and receiving government benefits, including health care. There is no exit.

A statewide period of amnesty during which people could negotiate state-monitored sentencing agreements that allowed for small payments over time, or community service in lieu of fines, might allow some to emerge from the shadow world and rejoin mainstream society. Along with stabilizing families, this would reduce stress and facilitate people’s contributing to the coffers as taxpayers.

Look for future editorials about money bail, inadequate public defense and the criminalization of homelessness.

GROUNDCOVER MISSION:

Creating opportunity and a voice for low-income people while taking action to end homelessness and poverty.

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JAMIE & ROBIN AGNEW

A glimpse of possibilities



by Rev. Dr. Martha Brunell
Groundcover Contributor

This past year I have taken time to consider the seasons – winter, spring, summer, and fall – and how they address our spiritual lives. Last October I led a large retreat on the topic. I will lead another one in mid-June. I have a fondness for all the seasons and feel lucky to live where seasonal changes are so evident. Consistently, since I was a child, if I had to pick one season, it would be fall or autumn. It would always be fall or autumn. But my thoughts now are with spring.

Growing up in the northeastern United States, the arrival of spring coincided with the end of sugaring time. In a good year with just the right weather conditions, the maple sap run would begin around February 28 and stretch all the way into the beginning of April. But honestly, the dominant feature of spring then and there was mud, mud, and more mud.

I do remember a late April class my first year in college. My ancient American Literature professor knew Robert Frost well. One day in the middle of his classroom presentation he stopped and instructed us to look out the window quickly. He continued: "That green is exactly the color Frost captured in this poem. It won't be here tomorrow. Take a good look now." He impressed on me that April long ago the impermanence that spring can wear.

Today as I write this article, I am struck with another wondrous impermanence. Spring arrives in northern Illinois for me when I spot the first red-winged blackbird. That sign has been seen for the year. Early green stalks are also pushing up through the softening

ground, a delicate contrast to the leaf debris left over from the last growing season. I appreciate both the birds and the green, and they will be around for a while. In these brief early moments of the season of crop-less rows, budding trees, tended gardens and a crowd of young wild animals, my attention lands on the reality that prior to the season's momentum, all seems possible.

Mild temperatures and low winds allowed me recently to build my first outdoor fire of the year in the fire pit behind the house. Flames danced as I made a slow 360-degree turn taking in the distant horizons of this broad and lovely land. In the absence of rising crops, I could look and look forever. It wasn't time yet for questions about the specifics of when to plant. There wasn't enough data to worry about too much rain, too little rain, or rain at the wrong time. Thoughts hadn't turned to mosquitoes that might bear threatening diseases. The air wasn't crowded with any of that. Once could stop, breathe deeply and notice, merely dwelling in a passing interval of time when possibilities appeared to be endless.

Spiritually the land I live on now is a constant reminder of spaciousness. There is the spacious spirit swirling around us and a spaciousness we might cultivate within. For a fleeting instant or two in the spring, we can also behold before the green, the busy activity, and the lengthening days, a spaciousness of possibility. It is one of the sweetest aspects of spring, made even sweeter because soon certain choices will be in place among the possibilities and a course charted for garden and field in the growing time ahead.

For now, impermanent as it is, I enjoy the gift of soaking in all those possibilities, the ones that will be picked and the ones that will not. How good it is to be reminded that possibilities abound. Or as Emily Dickinson once wrote, "I dwell in possibility." A few days in spring remind me to relish that.

Washtenaw County Zero:2016 Initiative Update

In January 2015, Washtenaw County joined 74 other communities across the country when it launched its participation in the Zero:2016 initiative, a national movement to end veteran and chronic homelessness by the end of 2016.



Overall Goals

- House 153 Veterans by 12/31/2015 and
- House 121 chronically homeless by 12/31/2016

2015 Summary

- Housed 172 Veterans by December 31, 2015!
- Housed 158 chronically homeless by 12/31/2015!

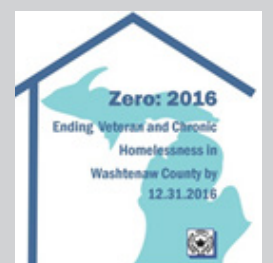
What is Zero?

The goal of Zero:2016 is to end homelessness by reaching a "functional zero" count. Functional zero is reached when, at any point in time, the number of people (veterans or chronic) experiencing sheltered and unsheltered homelessness will be no greater than the current monthly housing placement rate for that population.

Lessons Learned

- More affordable units are needed as are landlord partners to meet the need
- Our system is impacted by those entering and leaving the system. In 2016 we intend to also track when individuals leave the service area
- Community support is key

To donate, offer units, and follow monthly progress visit our website:
www.washtenawzero2016.com





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Awaken Ann Arbor – dissolving anxiety and depression

by Ross Bernhaut
U-M Student Contributor

Stop by the Multipurpose Room in Couzens Hall at 3 p.m. on any given Sunday and you may be surprised by what you see. More than 50 people doing tai chi, sitting with their eyes closed in meditation and participating in facilitated group discussions about compassion and purpose are all likely possibilities. Welcome to Awaken Ann Arbor: A Society for Spiritual Development, an organization conceived and led by recent University of Michigan graduate Will Ellis.

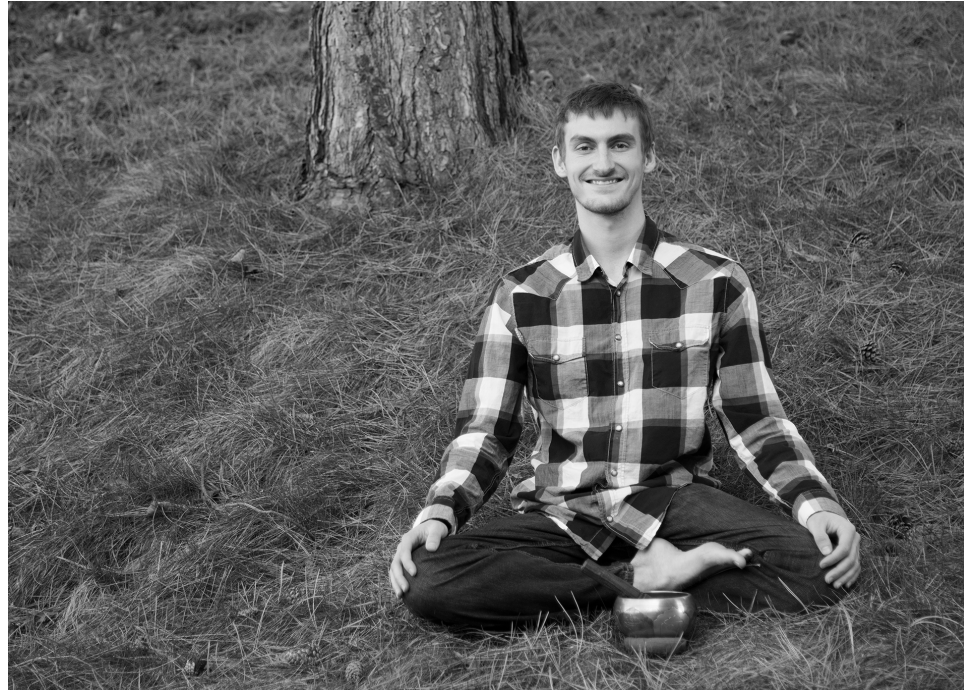
Ellis first discovered meditation during his freshman year at Michigan. For most of his teenage years, Ellis suffered from crippling bouts of anxiety and depression. When he decided to try and combat this, he became acquainted with academic advisor Denise Kozikowski, who teaches free meditation classes for students. Under her guidance, he developed a semi-regular personal meditation practice.

In the summer after his freshman year, Ellis began meditating with devout frequency. Just three weeks after beginning his serious practice he noticed an immense reduction in the anxiety and depression he normally experienced. Convinced of meditation's healing powers, he decided to share this gift with the world. Thus was spawned the idea for Awaken Ann Arbor, which Ellis founded in the autumn of 2014.

At the core of all that Awaken does is increasing self-awareness. "How many people notice," Ellis asks, "that when you inhale your breath feels cool in your nostrils, but when you exhale your breath feels warm?"

Simple exercises like watching your breath are essential to meditation and go a long way in making a person more aware of the connection between their mind, body, and breath. Every meeting begins with a 20-minute guided meditation session led by one of Awaken's certified meditation instructors. This is followed by some kind of icebreaker activity, where attendees sitting in the circle introduce themselves and respond to the additional prompt for that day, which may range from disclosing interesting facts about oneself to complimenting someone in the circle you've never met before. The icebreaker helps establish the Awaken group as a friendly and non-judgmental safe space, where people can feel comfortable being themselves.

The meeting typically concludes



Meditation is one aspect of Awaken Ann Arbor: A Society for Spiritual Development, a U-M club founded by Will Ellis, above.

with smaller group discussions of various topics related to spiritual practice, finding purpose in life, and understanding oneself on a deeper level. During certain special meetings, however, the club welcomes guest speakers to present or lead demonstrations. In the past, the club has hosted a self-love workshop, classes in two different schools of tai chi, a guided tour of Nichols Arboretum, and a talk by a Bhutanese monk.

Ellis believes that one of the most special aspects of Awaken is the club's incredible diversity. People of all religious faiths, ethnicities, academic concentrations, and socioeconomic backgrounds attend the meetings every week, united by their common values. One crucial value is the commitment to non-dogmatic spiritual development. Awaken is about being open to new ideas, challenging our assumptions about the world and self-transformation, not the passive reception of traditional religious dogma. This is why students from all religious backgrounds and wide-ranging spiritual practices can come together and discuss life's most important questions every Sunday.

According to Ellis, the club's greatest success has been fostering such a large, tight-knit and vibrant community of spiritually inclined individuals, all dedicated to improving themselves and the world around them. Their mass meeting in September saw more than 100 people in attendance, and the overall success of the club has even attracted the attention of *The Huffington Post*, which featured an article on the student organization in January.

Despite Awaken's astonishing success,

developing a program for leadership training. Leaders in Awaken must be particularly mindful of how they present themselves, because one of the fundamental tenets of the club is that everyone is both a student and a teacher. Therefore, the structure of the club is inherently collaborative, rather than hierarchical.

Eventually, Ellis hopes to spread Awaken to other college towns and universities, where similarly-minded students can meet to meditate, have engaging discussions and develop their spiritual practice. Now that we have entered a moment in history where (if it were to be distributed more equally) there is arguably enough abundance to meet the survival needs of all humans, it is fostering self-awareness, building a sense of community, and acknowledging the interconnectedness of all life that will catalyze the positive social change this world so desperately needs.



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Benbo: healthy food and economic empowerment

by Elizabeth “Lit” Kurtz
Groundcover Vendor # 159

I often marvel at young people rushing to class, passing the crisis of homelessness on their way. Despite the enormity of the crisis, no educational centers of higher learning seem to grasp their role in providing the educational tools to end it. From elementary through post-graduate education, the current curricula prance around the crisis of homelessness showing little concern for or awareness of its depth.

This may soon change due to the efforts of a trio of University of Michigan students who took on the subject of homelessness during a recent campus competition. Innovation in Action is an annual event put on by the School of Public Health. It brings together some of the brightest, intellectual young minds of our times and provides access to tools to realize their passions for social change.

Inspired by Groundcover News’ model of empowerment, these three students from diverse disciplines came together to bring to life a food product which would not only serve the public healthy meals, but empower those experiencing homelessness. Team members included: Master’s candidate in Health Administration Quan Pham; Minhee Choi, Master’s Candidate in the School of Social Work; and Lawrence Yong from the School of Information. Their energy was unparalleled by any I have seen during my entire stint of homelessness.

The concept of their design, benbo lunch, is to combine the elements of social change with the purchase of a healthy, convenient meal. Borrowed from the Japanese style bento boxes, the name of their product is an abbreviation of bento and box. Hence, the name *benbo*. As Quan Pham stressed to me, the concept behind it is to make people feel good about purchasing an item that is tasty and healthy while at the same time having a social impact. The message that accompanies the benbo lunch is concise and appealing: *eat good. feel good. benbo*.

I was honored to be chosen to participate in the pilot phase, demonstrating how the benbo lunch system will work. The team’s five months of research and market analysis combined with painstaking preparation was clearly evident. This allowed me to fit seamlessly into their design model. A pre-sales survey revealed that future customers would enjoy the product if the elements of cleanliness, trustworthiness, and friendliness were in place.



U-M students Quan Pham, Lawrence Yong, Groundcover vendor Lit Kurtz and U-M student Minhee Cho demonstrated that unhoused people could prepare and sell healthy meals as a business.

For two days, I prepped food in a professional kitchen. And for two days, I sold the benbo lunches to students and faculty near the South University side of the Diag. Even with a slight increase in the number of boxes available on the second day, the benbo lunches sold out in under two hours on both days.

Day 1: This first market test was to determine if the benbo lunches would sell at a set price of \$6.00. Result: all 30 lunches sold out in under two hours.

Day 2: The benbo lunches sold for whatever the customer wanted to pay. Result: all 42 boxes sold in under two hours, but with an increase in profit and in total lunches sold on the second day.

Along with the delicious arrangement of organic dumplings, edamame beans, teriyaki chicken, and tofu stir-fry, each customer was asked to participate in an online survey. The online survey responses revealed that:

- people were unfazed by an interaction with a homeless individual
- many were unaware that there was a homeless individual selling
- the food was delicious and they would purchase again
- the average price recommended through the survey was \$8.00

I attended the competition along with Team Benbo and waited with nervous anticipation to see if they would make it to the final round. As the last team name was called out, it was evident that Team Benbo would not continue on. It was heart-wrenching to accept that the crestfallen group would walk away with nothing tangible to show for their five months of effort.

There were 12 teams in all and the three that won presented state-of-the-art solutions to problems that might otherwise not be addressed. The result was no less than awe-inspiring.

First Place and the Audience Choice Award went to Team FreshFridge, which presented a mobile app that allows consumers to accurately track the foods in the fridge and their expiration dates. I got the sense that it will work intuitively with our refrigerators to save the 40 percent of food that we toss out.

Team Confluence Health took second place with an app that will help ease the burden of Community Health Workers by allowing better communication and coordination between these health providers and physicians. The impact of such an app will ultimately lead to time and cost savings and improved health care, especially for vulnerable populations.

Third Place went to Team Ditto. As the clever name suggests, it connects people who are dealing with the same (often invisible) illnesses. Their app takes the guesswork out of finding a support network of people who have the same struggles.

As the event neared its close and the top teams took to the stage to take their award money, Team Benbo and the other remaining teams were adjusting bravely to their defeat. I prepared myself for the closing remarks. I could still sense disappointment. I knew there were lingering questions: What should we have done differently? How could I help answer the myriad questions that inevitably would follow their loss?

Almost intuitively, the speaker helped put meaning behind the feelings of consolation that I desperately needed to give at that moment. One word in particular caught my attention so that I actually stopped and listened intently to the remainder of the program. As if his prepared remarks were tailor-made for Team Benbo, he offered advice that was all-too-poignant and relevant. Yes, I heard correctly. He used the word *subversive*. He reminded the small audience that creativity and originality often means that one often has to be subversive.

That one must often be subversive in forging new paths of creativity and originality defined Team Benbo. While their able competitors clearly helped improve on existing areas of concern, and will undoubtedly bring valuable innovations to current mainstream issues, homelessness still remains a largely uncharted path. Perhaps without being aware, this team had dared to be subversive. To stretch the limitations of what defines public health. To dream that their idea would have impact on our world, on future generations.

As they walked away, I could still sense their disappointment. Had they won, they had plans to getting the first two lunch carts up and going over the summer. They had dreamed how these GPS-tracked carts would eventually be a part of our daily lives, just as Groundcover is... how they would branch out to other cities who sell street papers, using the street paper concept as a path to “market entry.”

I, for one, have hope that their dream will not be lost; that they will continue to pitch their plan to more and more people. Not only would such a business help people such as me, but it begins to open diverse empowerment opportunities for those who struggle through homelessness.

In the end I felt blessed to have given witness to such an event. I was honored that they used me as their model. I walked away with a new sense of hope that all is not lost and that young adults who are preparing to take over the reins of our society have the vision combined with the aptitude to bring viable solutions to a crisis that many seem to have forgotten.

With the ingenuity and passion of bright minds such as these, I have no doubt that in the very near future, we may witness the following conversation: Homelessness? Sure. There’s an app for that.

Who do you tell when voices talk to you? Hope lives in Hearing Voices

by Anna Tsentsiper
Groundcover Contributor

You are alone in your room. All of a sudden, you start hearing voices describing your every move. What do you do but break?

In fall of 2005, Dave had just started college, hoping to major in psychology. This is exactly what happened to him.

Over three weeks, Dave's speech and behavior became increasingly bizarre. He searched for hidden cameras and tried to record voices. He told friends that the people "watching" him had x-ray vision and could see through clothes. This may seem funny, but to him it was serious. He filed a university complaint about being spied on and had a public meltdown. He went to a friend's house for help and got committed. His buddy's housemates had caught him trying to rip his car door apart looking for cameras and did what they thought best: called the cops.

The powers that be thought the psychiatric hospital was best; in fact, it pushed Dave further into psychosis. The voices said the staff would kill him. Dave called friends and family to say goodbye. He also called the cops! Dave paced all night awake, afraid that he would never wake up if he slept. He believed his laundry and food were poisoned and refused to eat unless his family brought food. This state lasted for the full 30 days he was there.

After he was let out, he was soon committed again. Dave went to the ER and



told them he had ESP. For him, this diagnosis was better than schizophrenia. This second experience was not as terrifying. However, once he was let out, Dave promised himself he would do everything to never end up in such a place again. Seeking a lifeline to the real world, he returned to his old job. The voices did not stop, but he did not dare discuss them with anyone. Sleep-deprived and paranoid, Dave kept working. He now wonders how he got through that time with no support system.

Dave is living proof that recovery from serious mental illness is possible. No, the voices did not go away, but Dave learned to lead a meaningful, active life in spite of them. "Recovery" is different for different people. What changed

for Dave is that he learned to cope. He realized his strength, and that the voices could not make him do anything against his will. Dave felt empowered. While his recovery is a continual process, his life changed forever and for the better once he became involved with the Hearing Voices Movement.

Hearing Voices Groups showed Dave that he is not alone. Dave's idea of "safety" had been social isolation, and one or two true friends who have stuck with him throughout. He did not talk about his experience, even with them, for nine years. Hearing Voices gave Dave self-expression, freedom to discuss what happened with those who went through similar ordeals. His path toward recovery was not, unfortunately, shaped by any patient-oriented treatment plan. The treatment he received at hospitals was missing crucial components, empathy especially. Dave's voices were dismissed as "hallucinations." He was encouraged to ignore them, forget them – unhelpful advice for someone who *cannot help hearing them*. If only those hospitals had had Hearing Voices, he could have been spared the terror he experienced alone while institutionalized.

Hearing Voices, which first began in the Netherlands in 1987 and then spread to the United Kingdom, reached the east coast of the United States

10 years ago. Today there are groups in many countries and environments, including general communities, closed psychiatric units and prisons.

Times change. People are speaking more openly about mental illness. This gives Dave hope that this dialogue will permanently enter the health care system, changing its focus from a medication-only approach to progressive, patient-oriented treatment. Medication has its place, but it can never replace peer support. Perhaps one day soon, patients in the United States will benefit from the Finnish Open Dialogue mental health system, where staff comes to the person in crisis and all treatment decisions are made jointly with patients and their families.

Already, there are two Hearing Voices groups meeting in Ann Arbor under the auspices of Washtenaw County Community Mental Health (WCCMH).

Dave encourages the Ann Arbor community to learn about what psychosis feels like through a feature

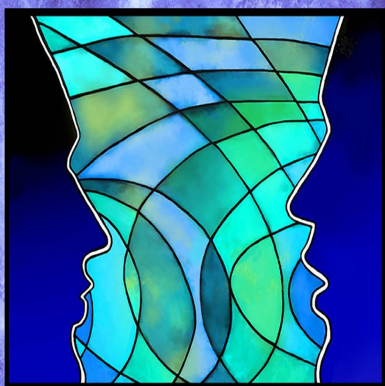
see HEARING VOICES, page 11

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Vendor perspective: Pedicab business up and running



Groundcover vendor Kevin Spangler took a rest in the passenger seat of his bicycle-powered cab which services the downtown Ann Arbor area.

by Kevin Spangler
Vendor #307

I am finding my way here. I found a great place to stay in Ann Arbor – a perfect location for my pedicab business.

I am in the beginning phase of the best pedicab tour company in Ann Arbor. So far I have the pedicab, which is most important. I have been only doing this for

a few weeks so far, cruising around Ann Arbor in my seafoam-green, human-powered taxi.

I have had many riders so far and they've been so great, enjoying the pedicab experience.

Riding on a pedicab is different than riding in a car or walking. You just sit back listen to the music and watch the scenery while I pedal you around beautiful historic Ann Arbor and I learn about you and you learn a little bit about me. I have even been able

to trade services with people in some instances, in place of taking money, and hope to continue using this barter system in the future. Other forms of payment I plan to accept are: cash, credit cards, Bitcoin, artwork, silver, and rCredits (a mutual credit system accepted as currency by local businesses).

The bike is a Main Street Pedicab,

made and built in America. I am extremely pleased with the exceptional quality of the taxi cab. I wanted the best for my patrons. I believe I got the best, while supporting our local American economy.

My overarching pedicab business goals include preventing my fellow patrons from getting behind the wheel while being intoxicated. My short-term pedicab goals are getting on Instagram and Twitter, creating business cards and a website.

I will create and offer multiple planned pedicab tours, including a Slow Food Crawl of the Ann Arbor restaurants that source their ingredients locally, a tour along the Huron River, and a tour

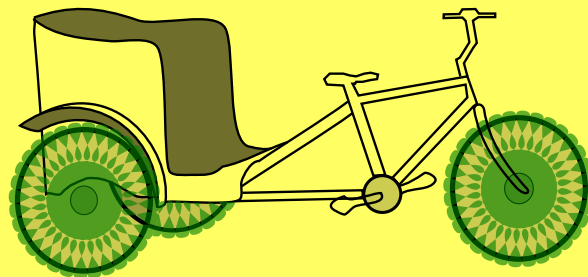
of the artwork around Ann Arbor.

My long-term business goal is to establish a thriving tour business in Ann Arbor where I teach and train people in transition, like myself, to make a living and support themselves. Job creation is important for our local economy.

Come enjoy a ride on my special pedicab! Come create an experience you will never forget! Let me be your guide to a fun time enjoying our beautiful city while also keeping it green! Like me on Facebook under "Kevin Spangler" to see the pictures and videos of how much fun my customers are already having. Call 734-686-2087 to schedule a ride or just flag me down if you see me riding toward you.

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PARISH

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"Mercy is the force that reawakens us to new life."

Pope Francis' Misericordiae Vultus

Mass Schedule

Saturday

5:00 p.m.

Sunday

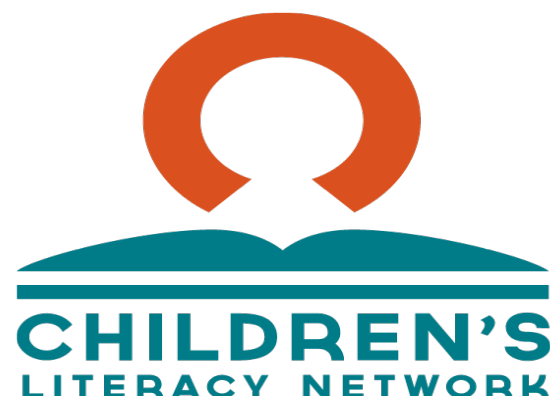
7:00 a.m. 8:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 12:00 p.m. & 5:00 p.m.

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Sudoku ★★★★★ 4puz.com

		9	1			6		
4		3						
7			5		8			3
8		1			5			6
3		7		8		9		5
5			7			8		1
9			4		3			8
						7		2
		4			2	3		

Fill in the squares so that each row, column, and 3-by-3 box contain the numbers 1 through 9.

Cryptoquote:

SNOR SO WLPI INPRHPRY
XGPVDGPQT DEULI ULGZOQJOZ
DRB ULG USR ZOQK-
XGOZOGJDIPUR, SO LRBOGYU D
IGLQT NOGUPF IGDRZKUGVDIPUR
UK FURZFPULZROZZ.

— Joseph Campbell

Clue: ☉ = ☿

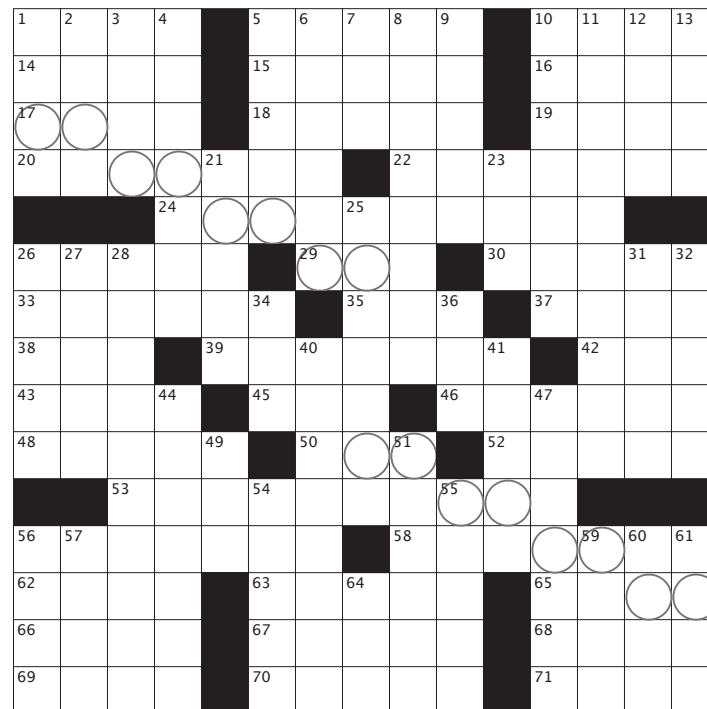
Noteworthy Peter A. Collins

ACROSS

1. "___ girl!"
5. Old P.C. software
10. Kind of torch
14. Do a kitchen job
15. "___ to you"
16. Bread baker
17. Arrange, as hair
18. Sign in a party store window
19. Name on a peppermint pattie
20. Elixir
22. "My bad!"
24. Asset in a roommate
26. Out of vogue
29. Fleeting fashion
30. Language used for mass communication?
33. Rise
35. Lab in the basement, maybe?
37. Sprite, for instance
38. Torque symbol in physics
39. Demolish
42. Take the gold
43. Pulls back
45. ___ chi
46. "Let it go!"
48. See 44—Down
50. U.K. award
52. Hardly hygienic
53. Like opposites
56. Components of a stable environment?
58. Withstanding the test of time
62. Stubbs of the Four Tops
63. Absorbed the cost, slangily
65. ___—European
66. Yemeni gulf
67. Jeans fastener
68. Contented
69. Bjorn on the court
70. Startle
71. They used to be nuts

DOWN

1. "Back in Black" band



© Peter A. Collins (Published via Across Lite)

2. Commandment pronoun
3. What a band might do
4. Mollify
5. Metric prefix
6. Northfield, MN college
7. Summer hrs.
8. Alien
9. Wire holder
10. Some imports
11. Intellectual hideaway
12. Golden State Warriors coach Steve
13. Extremely dark
21. Edit
23. Part of R.S.V.P.
25. Rite with water
26. Party spreads
27. Easy ___
28. "Shark Week" figure
31. "The tip of the iceberg", for example
32. Au pair
34. Eastern holiday
36. Waits in a music store?
40. Barbarous
41. Bikram and Iyengar
44. With 48—Across, flexible fee schedule (and a hint to this puzzle's theme)
47. 1958 Hitchcock film
49. Class for those new to the U.S., often
51. More likely to stain
54. Craftsman tool sellers
55. Starbucks order
56. Tattle
57. Make over, as a room
59. At a Dodgers game, perhaps
60. Mont. neighbor
61. Jupiter and Mars
64. Longoria of "Telenovela"

Groundcover Vendor Code

While Groundcover News is a nonprofit organization and newspaper vendors are considered contracted self-employers, we still have expectations of how vendors should conduct themselves while selling and representing the paper.

The following list is our Vendor Code of Conduct, which every vendor reads and signs before receiving a badge and papers. We request that if you discover a vendor violating any tenets of the Code, please contact us and provide as many details as possible. Our paper and our vendors should be positively impacting our County.

All vendors must agree to the following code of conduct:

- Groundcover News will be distributed for a voluntary donation of \$1, or the face value of the paper. I agree not to ask for more than face value or solicit donations by any other means.
- I will only sell current issues of Groundcover News.
- I agree not to sell additional goods or products when selling the paper or to panhandle, including panhandling with only one paper.
- I will wear and display my badge when selling papers.
- I will only purchase the paper from Groundcover News Staff and will not sell

to or buy papers from other Groundcover News vendors, especially vendors who have been suspended or terminated.

- I agree to treat all customers, staff and other vendors respectfully. I will not "hard sell," threaten, harass or pressure customers, staff, or other vendors verbally or physically.
- I will not sell Groundcover News under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
- I understand that I am not a legal employee of Groundcover News but a contracted worker responsible for my own well-being and income.
- I understand that my badge is property of Groundcover News and will not deface it. I will present my badge when purchasing the papers.
- I agree to stay off private property when selling Groundcover News.
- I understand to refrain from selling on public buses, federal property or stores unless there is permission from the owner.
- I agree to stay at least one block away from another vendor. I will also abide by the Vendor corner policy.

If you see any Groundcover News vendors not abiding by the code of conduct, please report the activity to:
contact@groundcovernews.com
734-707-9210



Bethlehem United Church of Christ

423 S. Fourth Avenue, Ann Arbor, MI 48104
734-665-6149

Bethlehem Church is the home of the Groundcover office

Sunday Worship Times

8:30 am and 10:00 am

Sunday school at 10:15 am

Fellowship Hour follows each service

April Community Events – Welcome!

- April 3 (Sun.) One Worship Service only, 10:00 am
April 10 (Sun.) Bethlehem Concert Series:
Ann Arbor Camerata, 7:30 pm
(Suggested donation: \$20 adults, \$10 students)
- Now – April 12 Weekly Faith Formation Class, Mon. at 7 or Tues. at 1
April 14 & 15 CPR Class (no certification, hands-on only)
April 16 (Sat.) German Pretzel Sales, 10:30 - 12pm, \$1 or \$10 dozen
April 18 (Mon.) Life Line Screening, Cardiovascular Health
(call 888-653-6450 to reserve your spot)
April 29 (Fri.) German Pretzel Sales, 11:00 - 2pm, \$1 or \$10 dozen

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www.youtube.com/user/
BethlehemChurchA2



bethlehem-ucc.org

APRIL IS NATIONAL POETRY MONTH

How to Help

by Karen L. Totten
Groundcover Contributor

There is much to think about,
plenty to see:

the man at my dumpster in the early morning
pulling plastic soda bottles out of the refuse to purchase a day's food

the boy in the orange jumpsuit at dialysis, handcuffed,
dragging chains on his slippered feet,
as two police officers escort him in and out of the clinic,
sit with him through a long three hours,
guard his life's blood as it cycles through the tubing,

and the vase of wilting yellow roses on the magazine cupboard,
for the sweet Monday-Wednesday-Friday woman
who chose to quit her treatments when her lung cancer came back,

and my tired sister-in-law who works a weekday nanny job
and a weekend deli job, one for a living, and the other for health insurance.

No immunity in acquiescence to life.
These are our stories. They are not myth.
Under the light of the ageless Milky Way,
We are real and living our very lives.
It's humanity shores up the world,
one person holding onto another
all the way up.

A Visitation

by Karen L. Totten
Groundcover Contributor

Here is the front room. I sit to say a prayer.

Your body white as porcelain, slender as remembrance,

lies beneath a handmade quilt. A friend says you are asleep
with the ages, resting unafraid.

Did I see your chest move, slowly, on intake of breath in the quiet?

A beetle dances across the window to be let in,

sun filters through the sheer rose-colored curtains.

Gabrielle, in the painting of daVinci's Madonna

your daughter drew, in sunflowers nodding from stone pots

atop the tables. Edges of light finger green leaf tips; outdoors,

tall oaks whisper your name over the roof and around the garden walks

(flowers everywhere, deep purple, tiny daisy's, Queen Anne's Lace)

A pool of shadows form under the outstretched arms of pines, everywhere,
the bee loud glade, every stem of wheat bending in the front field.

Tigger cat's soft purr and scratchy tongue,

chimes ringing in the breezes near the gazebo, a cock crow from the yard,

Kind voices of your friends walking the labyrinth.

The hot wind in this dry season has stolen the tears from our eyes

To sprinkle them among the daylilies, did I mention flowers,

everywhere, the language of flowers, sweet pea (goodbye)

lily of the valley (our lady's tears) gladiolas (remembrance)

cattail (peace).

The philosopher said, *all spiritual paths are one.*

Groundcover Groove

Raising funds to send two representatives to the
2016 street newspaper conference
featuring

Stevie D. and the Wannabees

May 6
7pm to 12am

at the Club Above at the Heidelberg
18+ only

Suggested donation: \$10

Tickets sold in advance and at the door

Email groundcovernews@gmail.com to purchase in advance

One Thousand Hopes

by Tyrece Davis, aka Paradox

One thousand tears fall upon the face of the forsaken,

a blood soaked battlefield calls out with the cries of innocent lives.

For what purpose do I stand?

Five thousand weary soldiers stare across the horizon that
separates them from home. Ten thousand angels stand
ready as the legions of darkness surge forth.

Though rage has consumed all things,

though the sanctity of life is all but forgotten,

one thousand petals still fall off

the candle of hope that eternally burns.

Truckers among many battling human trafficking

by William Crandall
Groundcover Vendor #328

Human trafficking is the fastest growing form of organized crime in the world, according to a 2011 FBI report. There are an estimated 20.9 million victims worldwide and 1.5 million victims in America currently serving as sex slaves or subjected to labor servitude.

According to an FBI press release, many of the sex trafficking victims are young and trafficking usually begins between the ages of 11 to 14. In 2003 the FBI formed the Innocence Lost National Initiative to take direct action to curtail the tide of human trafficking. Through their actions, they have currently rescued more than 4,800 victims by forming 73 task forces and working groups. They have also seized more than 3.1 million dollars in assets with more than 2,000 convictions for trafficking nationwide. There is growing recognition that workers in the sex trades are more victim than criminal.

Washtenaw County formed the Women's Court of Washtenaw County in January 2014, utilizing a \$58,000 grant provided by the State of Michigan's Court Performance Innovation Fund. The court is the first of its kind in Michigan and the goal of the court is to find help for victims and keep them from reoffending. The victims of trafficking are immediately assessed and assigned a treatment plan and usually given two years' probation, which is the longest sentence allowed for a misdemeanor under state law. Their goal is not to punish but help the victims receive the services they need and put them on the path of healing.

Other communities are also coming up with innovative ways to fight human trafficking. For instance, the truck stop industry is taking the fight to the street level by identifying trafficking where much of the prostitution is being committed. The battle is being led by a nationwide group called Truckers Against Trafficking (TAT), and their main goal is to educate truck drivers, truck stop employees and motorists on how to recognize trafficking victims.

All new truckers and all employees of the trucking industry must now watch a video about trafficking victims and the signs to watch for during their training. Wallet-sized cards that explain how to identify victims are being placed at truck stops to educate drivers on the signs of human trafficking. The cards also include a hotline number to call if they notice any suspicious activity.

Here in Michigan, organizations are banding together to fight all forms of trafficking. Most notable is the Michigan Human Trafficking Task Force, whose 90 member-organizations have



pledged to combat trafficking by identifying victims, prosecuting offenders and educating the public. According to information obtained from their website, Michigan is an international destination state for all forms of trafficking and smuggling because of its many legal and natural borders.

Many of the victims who cross our borders are forced into the sex industry. The exact number of victims brought into Michigan is unknown but there are an estimated 14,500 to 17,500 victims arriving in the United States annually. The actual numbers will never be known because of the underground nature of the crime and the fact that victims are hard to identify.

Michigan State Attorney General Bill Schuette has formed the Human Trafficking prosecution unit within the Attorney General's office. He also worked with the State legislature to form the first Michigan Human Trafficking Commission. The Commission is designed to help fund research programs, educate law enforcement personnel, collect and analyze data and establish a program for public awareness. The new commission helped develop policy measures

that resulted in a comprehensive legislative package that was passed by the Michigan state legislature in 2014 to combat trafficking.

Still, human trafficking continues to grow at an alarming rate. "No longer can we say these crimes don't happen in 'my neighborhood,'" said David P. Gelios, Special Agent in Charge of the FBI Detroit Division in a recent press release. "The

sexual exploitation of minors, which routinely involves trafficking teenage girls, is repulsive and all too common. The FBI's collective effort with our Law Enforcement partners to eliminate the ability of traffickers to victimize our children is time and resources well-spent. Little can be more important than that."

In a 2015 FBI press release, United States District Attorney Patrick Miles stated, "Sadly, sex trafficking happens everywhere in the country, traffickers often target minors who are lured by the promise of money, independence, and sometimes friendship, love, drugs, or violence, into selling their bodies. The growing number of sex trafficking investigations and prosecutions represent law enforcement's increasing focus on finding and prosecuting those who prey on the vulnerable youth in our community."

According to the Michigan Human Trafficking Task Force, some of the signs that someone is being trafficked include:

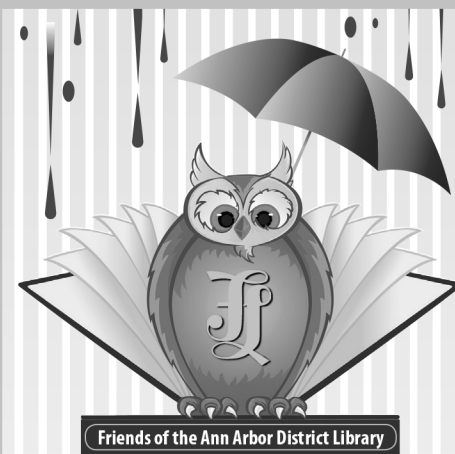
- Not free to leave or come and go as he/she wants

- Works excessively long hours, paid through tips
- Owes a large debt and is unable to pay it off
- Recruited through false pretenses, concerning the nature and conditions of the work
- High security exists including opaque windows, boarded-up or barred windows, security cameras, etc.
- Large numbers of people living in one house and there is a spokesperson for the group
- Is fearful, anxious, depressed, tense, or nervous
- Avoids eye contact
- Has few or no personal possessions
- Is not in control of own money or identification documents
- Not allowed to speak for themselves
- Numerous inconsistencies in his/her stories

If you suspect someone is being trafficked, please contact The National Human Trafficking Resource Center at [1-888-373-7888](tel:1-888-373-7888).

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GROUNDCOVER NEWS
presents
POEMS for CHANGE

Thursday, April 14 at 8:10pm
Michigan League - Conference Room 4
911 N University Ave, Ann Arbor MI

Groundcover vendors, U-of-M students, and community members share about their identities through poems and stories

Hearing Voices

continued from page 6

film called *Healing Voices*, coming to Michigan Theater April 23 at 1 p.m. The movie follows three people overcoming extreme mental states, and interviews those who have recovered and health professionals advocating for them. A question and answer session with local psychologists and members of Ann Arbor's Hearing Voices Network will follow.

To learn more about the film and watch the trailer, go

to healingvoicesmovie.com, or visit us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/HealingVoicesMovieAnnArbor.

Healing Voices ticket information:

Michigan Theater, Ann Arbor

April 23, 1 p.m.

\$10 at door

Children under 12, students with ID, seniors 55 & older, and veterans: \$8
MTF members: \$7.50

Unwaged & low-income individuals: \$0.01-\$5 sliding scale

Remembering Cheryl Greeley (Sept. 11, 1953 – Feb. 20, 2016)



by Elizabeth "Lit" Kurtz

Cheryl was beautiful. I don't say that because she is gone. But she was. Despite the illness and other life challenges that disrupted her life, whenever I saw her she had a gloss on her lips and a smile that brought out the twinkle in her eyes. Her pleasant demeanor always took me to a more innocent place – perhaps where women balanced flower baskets on the handlebars of their bikes and were carefree. She traveled, it seemed effortlessly, between church dinners and sleeping jaunts as if the road were made for a bike such as hers.

For some time, her selling venue was Depot Town in Ypsilanti. She would sometimes complain about business being slow, or of being ignored, but she

remained in Ypsilanti. She sometimes reminisced about her years working at Hello Faz Pizza.

Cheryl never smoked or drank and always took the time to put on makeup and a nice outfit. She shared her home with four cats who have been adopted by her friend, Donna. Cheryl's family recalled her joy at sharing presents with them and they credit her with making the best caramels, a highlight of annual Christmas visits.

She always seemed to make it to Pizza in the Park, the regular Friday night gathering in Liberty Park. Cheryl would show up on her bike as though it were a Rolls Royce. There she would find fellowship, enjoying pizza from the Vineyard Ministry and the company of close friends, before restocking her supply of papers to sell in the upcoming week.

Cheryl regularly parked her bike outside Bethlehem Church on the first Thursday of the month to join in our monthly paper reviews. Her review was consistent, never wavering from examining the coupons that could be selling points.

Her absence creates a void that will not be replaced in our meetings. Pizza in the Park will seem empty without her being there. Her quaint, affable manner of surviving made an impact on our lives at Groundcover News, and for that we are truly thankful.



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When we quit thinking
primarily about ourselves and
our own self-preservation,
we undergo a truly
heroic transformation of
consciousness.

– Joseph Campbell

2	5	9	1	3	7	6	8	4
4	8	3	2	6	9	5	1	7
7	1	6	5	4	8	2	9	3
8	9	1	3	2	5	4	7	6
3	4	7	6	8	1	9	2	5
5	6	2	7	9	4	8	3	1
9	2	5	4	7	3	1	6	8
1	3	8	9	5	6	7	4	2
6	7	4	8	1	2	3	5	9

1	A	T	T	A	5	M	S	D	O	S	10	T	I	K	I
14	C	H	O	P	15	I	T	S	U	P	16	O	V	E	N
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20	C	U	R	E	21	A	L	L	22	S	O	S	O	R	R
23					24	A	M	I	25	A	B	I	L	I	T
26	P	A	S	S	E	27	F	A	28	D	29	L	A	T	I
30	A	S	C	E	N	T	31	P	32	E	T	33	S	O	D
34	T	A	U	35	D	E	S	T	36	R	O	Y	37	W	I
38	E	B	B	39	S	40	T	A	41	I	42	M	O	V	E
43	S	C	A	L	E	44	D	S	45	O	46	G	E	R	M
47					48	D	I	S	49	S	50	I	M	I	L
51	B	R	I	D	L	E	S	52	L	A	S	T	53	I	N
54	L	E	V	I	55	A	T	E	56	I	T	57	I	N	D
58	A	D	E	N	59	R	I	V	60	E	T	61	G	L	A
62	B	O	R	G	63	S	C	A	64	R	E	65	O	A	K

GROUNDCOVER NEWS ADVERTISING RATES

Size	Black and White	Color	Approx. Size
Business card	\$49.95	\$65.95	3.5 X 2
1/8	\$89.95	\$129.95	2.5 X 6.5 or 5 X 3.25
1/6	\$129.95	\$165.95	5 X 5
1/4	\$159.95	\$215.95	5 X 6.5
1/2	\$299.95	\$399.95	5 X 14 or 10 X 6.5
Full Page	\$495.95	\$669.95	10 X 14

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Three Months/Three Issues: 15% off
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Blueberry poppy seed brunch cake

by Elizabeth Bauman
Groundcover Contributor

Cake

- 2/3 cup sugar
- 1/2 cup butter, softened
- 2 teaspoons grated lemon peel
- 1 1/2 cup unbleached flour
- 2 Tablespoons poppy seed
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 cup sour cream

Filling

- 2 cups fresh or frozen blueberries, thawed
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 2 teaspoons flour
- 1/4 teaspoon nutmeg

Glaze

- 1/2 cup powdered sugar
- 2 teaspoons milk

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Grease and flour the sides of a 9-inch spring-form pan.

In a large bowl, beat 2/3 cup of butter and sugar until light and fluffy. Add lemon peel and egg; beat two minutes on medium speed. In medium bowl combine flour, poppy seed, baking soda and salt. Add to butter mixture alternately with sour cream. Spread batter over bottom and up the sides (about 1 inch) of the floured pan, making sure batter on the sides is 1/4 inch thick.

In medium bowl combine filling ingredients. Spoon over batter and bake for 45 to 55 minutes. Crust should be lightly browned. Remove from oven, cool slightly and then remove from springform pan.

In a small bowl combine powdered sugar and milk until smooth and of a consistency for drizzling. Drizzle over the warm cake.

This is a wonderful addition to a spring brunch. Serve warm or cool.

Local artists to raise funds for Flint

by Ernie Rogers
Groundcover Contributor

I am an Ann Arbor artist who often goes to Starbucks for coffee. Groundcover is sold outside of the café daily. I buy a paper once in a while; I can't buy one as often as I would like because I live on a fixed income, only social security and some disability. I have gotten to know vendors Tony and Joe and consider them friends. Shelley and Lonnie are also friendly, cheerful people. This is a great organization and one of Ann Arbor's best features.

For the past few years I have been trying to think of something I could do to help Groundcover. When the Flint water crisis hit, I got an inspired idea for a project that could help both causes.

Together with gifted local painter Jane French, artist-in-residence at Miller Manor (her breathtaking murals grace every floor of the building), I helped establish an art studio at Miller Manor so residents can make and showcase their own art. The art studio's grand opening, probably at the end of April, will feature live music and is open to the public. Our ultimate goal is to stage several exhibits showcasing our best art, and donating a substantial portion of the sale proceeds to the citizens of Flint, Groundcover News and the Miller Manor art studio.

To donate art supplies for the Miller Manor art studio or to talk about our upcoming fundraising exhibits, please contact me at 734-794-6720 ext. 47256.



Synapses by Ernie Rogers. Oil based enamel on canvas. 48" x 20"

Strange (but Mostly True) Stories About a Mother and her Daughter • Cy Klone © 2016

What have we here?!? Shoe's on the other foot now! Or should I say the sweaty sock is on the other paw?

You aren't making sense to me. What are you implying?

You got me there, Mom. Apparently I inherited your fondness for strong male scents.

You think I don't remember all your comments about me rolling around in laundry baskets full of his sweaty clothes while purring insanely?

Well as your concerned mother, now it's my turn to point out those strong male scents make you crazier than catnip. Are you sure you don't have a problem? Should I check you into sweat-sock rehab?

Is anyone getting hurt?

Now you're using my own words against me - well played! Though you know we're even now....

We shall speak no more of this.